

Appl. No. : 09/768,031
Filed : January 23, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 29-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 29, 37-38, and 43-50 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 30-36, 39-42, and 51-54 remain pending for consideration.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 39-42 and 51-54 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 39-42 and 51-54 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, these claims are in condition for allowance. Claims 30-36 have been amended to depend from Claim 30-32 and 34-36 have been amended to depend from Claim 42. Claim 33 depends from Claim 30 as previously presented. Accordingly, Claims 30-36 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 30-36, 39-42, and 51-54.

Applicant takes no position on the rejections, e.g., on the Examiner's characterization of the references, the propriety of the combination, or whether the combinations teach or suggest all of the limitations of the previously pending claims. The foregoing amendments have been made to expedite allowance of this application. Applicant reserve the right to pursue the previously pending and similar claims in a related application to be filed at a later date.

In view of this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues or questions that may be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: August 9, 2004

By: Andrew M. Douglas
Andrew M. Douglas
Registration No. 51,212
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404